

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE  
PLANTING AND PRESERVATION  
OF  
CITY TREES

HEADQUARTERS: CHILDREN'S MUSEUM IN BEDFORD PARK  
BROOKLYN AVE. AND PARK PLACE, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Improve Your Street: Plant Trees  
Get Your Neighbors to Coöperate

BY J. J. LEVISON, M. F.  
FORESTER



ORIENTAL SYCAMORE TREES, SO. PORTLAND AVE., BROOKLYN, N. Y.  
PLANTED BY COÖPERATIVE SYSTEM. PHOTO TWO MONTHS AFTER PLANTING

Given by W. A. MURKILL  
JUL 21 1921

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American Association for the  
Planting and Preservation of City Trees

# Plant Trees

The special object of this pamphlet is to aid and direct those who are interested in making this city beautiful and healthful, and to secure their co-operation with us so that the work may be uniform and harmonious.

There is nothing that will adorn a city street like a tree, suitably planted and adapted to the special soil and surroundings. Such a tree is a joy to the eye and a comfort to the pedestrian. It shelters the home from excessive heat and dust, adds charm to the finest architecture and abolishes untidy and forbidden places. A street thus planted lends contentment and refinement to every home and blesses all with its cooling shade. Whether such a home be a palace or humble cottage the street and neighborhood have gained in commercial value one hundred fold more than the amount expended on the tree.

## GET YOUR NEIGHBORS TO COÖPERATE

Trees are necessary to make any street look well. Mere architecture, however imposing, will not make a street attractive unless softened by the foliage and branches of trees. A street planted with trees will not give the proper effect unless it shows *uniformity* in every detail of planting. Only one kind of tree should be used on the same street or block; all must be of uniform size and all must be set out at equal distances apart. To accomplish such results, the planting of trees on streets cannot be done by residents independently. Individual planting will never produce *uniformity*, the *keynote* of successful street planting.

It would be much better if the city could undertake the planting of our streets, but our city has neither funds nor authority to plant trees on its streets. The only feasible course left, therefore, is for the residents of each street to coöperate and plant their own street uniformly. This has been tried with absolute success on several streets in Brooklyn, and the cost to abutting property owners ranged from six to eight dollars per house number. Why not try it on your street?



## How to Do it

If you are prompted by civic pride to become the moving spirit in the realization of your street beautiful, proceed in this way:

1. Consult the Park Department, determine how many trees on your street are worthless or dangerous and ask the Park Department to remove them.

2. Determine how many trees are needed assuming that they are to be planted at distances of thirty feet.

3. Find how many house numbers there are on your street or block and determine how much each property owner should be taxed.

4. Apply to this Association for a form of contract and the names of reliable nurserymen who will furnish estimates.

With the necessary data at hand you can approach your neighbors and ask them to contribute their share. You may even call a meeting and have a general discussion of the matter under leadership of representatives from this Association. With your neighbors pledged, get to work at once to procure the planter and trees.

## NECESSARY INFORMATION

### Trees Best for Street Planting

(New York City and Vicinity)

In the heart of the City	For Suburban Sections
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Oriental Sycamore	American Elm
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Norway Maple	Ginkgo
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Red Oak	European Linden
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	Scotch Elm
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	Pin Oak
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	Red Maple
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### Trees to be Avoided

All Poplars	Catalpa
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Silver Maple	Willow
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Sugar Maple	American Linden
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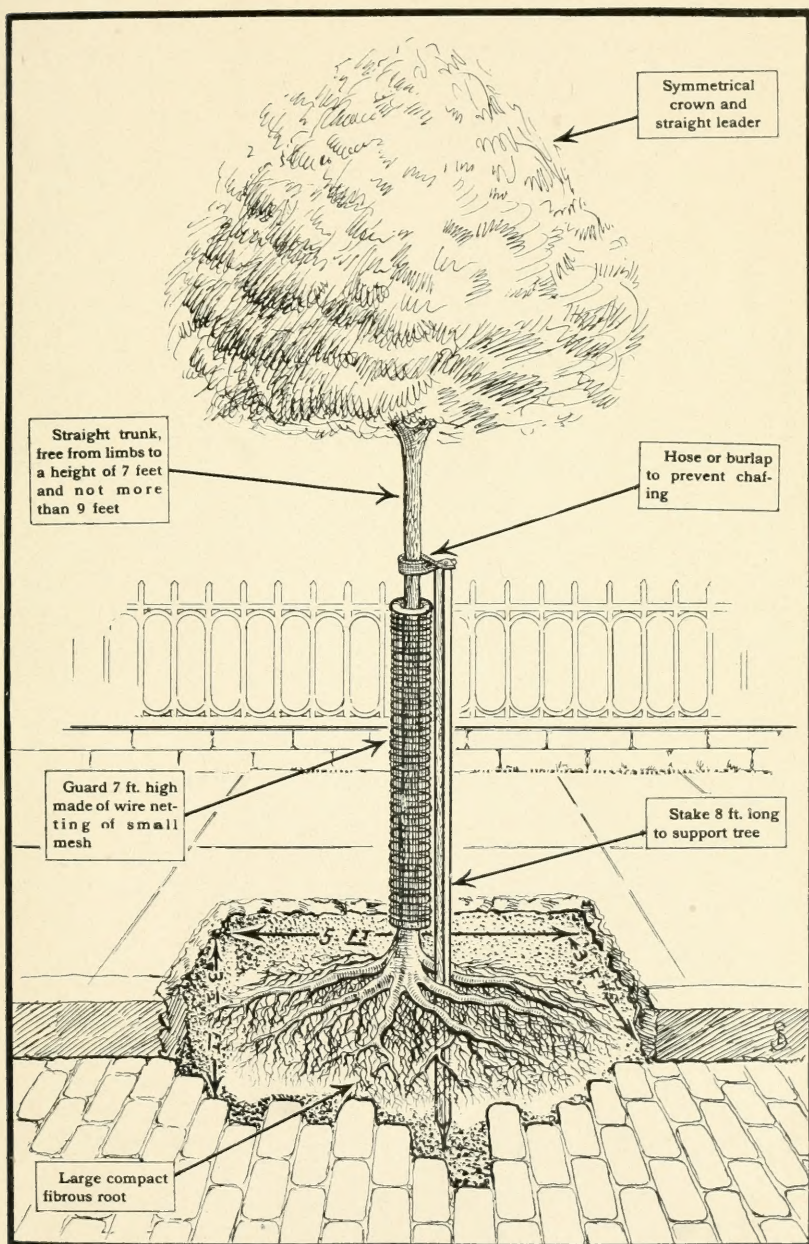
(in New York City only)	(in New York City)
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Sycamore Maple	
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(in New York City only)	
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The trees listed above are especially intended for the Eastern States

# SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE SELECTION OF THE SPECIMEN TREE





## DETAILS OF PLANTING

### Time of Planting

Spring is preferable to Fall for planting.

### Spacing and Uniformity in Planting

Most of the trees on our streets and even in many of our parks have been planted without sufficient space. A tree must have plenty of moisture, light and space for the full development of its natural form. If its neighbors are too near, the struggle for existence becomes very keen; the strongest may survive, but greatly impaired and the perfect beauty marred. Most trees need to be planted thirty or thirty-five feet apart to grow and flourish properly, and for the spread of a tree like the elm sixty feet should be allowed.

Where whole rows of trees are set out at one time they should be, if possible, of the same species, size and form. Diversity of species and difference in size on the same block are even more unsightly than varied forms of architecture, where high buildings shoulder low and insignificant ones.

### Preparations for Planting

It is important to start preparations as early in the year as possible. Fall or early spring are the two periods for this work. Do not wait until the best trees are sold, but order your trees at once, preferably in the fall. Immediately before the planting, in advance of all other work, cut an opening in the sidewalk five feet long and three feet wide; this avoids delay at the time of planting. Write to the Park Department for permit to plant the tree, naming the species, time of planting and space.

### Method of Planting

Just before the tree arrives, dig the hole three and a half feet deep and replace the soil with rich, mellow loam. The chief precaution at this stage is the protection of the roots of the tree from the drying effects of sun and wind, and for this reason a cloudy day is better than a sunny day for planting. Too much stress cannot be laid upon this point, because even a few minutes' exposure may injure the fibrous roots which are the chief feeders of the tree. Before placing the tree in the pit the roots should be examined, all bruised roots cut off smoothly and the ends covered with coal-tar. This will prevent root-rot and stimulate the formation of new fibrous

rootlets. The tree should then be set in the hole at the same depth as it stood in the nursery. The roots should be carefully spread out and mellow soil worked in tightly, with the fingers, among the fine rootlets. Every root fibre is thus brought in contact with the rich soil. More good soil should then be added (in layers) and firmly stamped, and before the last layer is filled in, thoroughly watered. The last layer should remain loose, so that it may act as a mulch, or an absorbent of moisture. The crown of the tree should be slightly trimmed in order to equalize the loss of roots by a corresponding decrease in leaf surface. The tree should then be fastened to a stake and the guard placed around it.

### AFTER CARE

During the first season the tree should be watered and cultivated at least three times a week, especially in hot summer days.

### WHAT THE ASSOCIATION WILL DO

The Secretary of the Association will furnish to members, on application, order blanks to be used in ordering trees; also names of reliable nurserymen and other useful data.

It is estimated that the cost of planting twenty-five trees in a given section of the Borough of Brooklyn or Queens will be from five to seven dollars per tree.

### WHAT THE CITY OF NEW YORK WILL DO

The Bureau of Highways will furnish the necessary permit to open the sidewalk. The Park Department will grant the permit to plant; will remove all dead and dangerous trees and give any necessary advice.

For further details and practical assistance address the Secretary of the Association, Anna B. Gallup.

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## EARLIER PUBLICATIONS

Constitution

What Trees to Plant and How

Arbor Day Message to Boys and Girls, 1911